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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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WOOD, PHILLIPS, VAN SANTEN, CLARK & MORTIMER  
500 WEST MADISON STREET, SUITE 3800  
CHICAGO, IL 60661

EXAMINER

EDMONDSON, LYNNE RENEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1725

DATE MAILED: 12/26/2001

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

T.D-2

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/722,775

Applicant(s)

SIRGEDAS, JOSEPH

Examiner

Lynne R. Edmondson

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Belicic (USPN 3968982).

Belicic teaches a method of forming a meltable material at a joint between engaged male (1) and female (2) elements comprising the steps of placing a wire solder ring (4) around the male element such that the male member is directed through it (col 2 lines 45-68 and figure 2). There is no disclosure of a split ring and the ring appears complete (360 degrees) in the drawings. The elements are heated which melts the solder ring. The ring melts before moving (flowing) from the outside of the male

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element to the gap between both elements (col 2 lines 54-58 and col 3 lines 3-12). The joint is solidified on cooling. Removing the elements from heat will result in natural cooling.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simpson (USPN 4174563).

Simpson teaches a method of forming a meltable material at a joint between engaged male (7) and female (8) elements comprising the steps of placing a solder ring (10) around the male element such that the male element is directed through it (col 3 lines 1-11 and col 3 line 50-col 4 line 11). The ring appears complete (360 degrees) in the drawings (figure 3). The elements are heated which melts the solder ring. The ring melts before moving (flowing) along the stranded wire (col 3 lines 63-66). The joint is solidified on cooling. Removing the elements from heat will result in natural cooling. See claims Simpson 1-4, 7 and 12-17.

4. Claims 1-6,8-10,16-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooks (USPN 4092193).

Brooks teaches a method of forming a meltable material at a joint between engaged male (1) and female (20) elements comprising the steps of placing a solder ring (2) around the male element such that the male member is directed through it (col 3 lines 30-68 and figure 8). The ring is disclosed as circular (col 3 lines 33-36) and the ring appears complete (360 degrees) in the drawings. The elements are heated which

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melts the solder ring. The ring melts before moving (flowing) through the elements (col 3 lines 37-43 and col 5 lines 60-64). The joint is solidified on cooling. Removing the elements from heat will result in natural cooling. The solder ring is bent around the male element (col 5 lines 35-38 and figures 6-7). The elements are a pipe and fitting (coupling) (col 6 lines 3-15 and figures 9-12). See Brooks claims 1-4 and 20.

5. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Delalle (USPN 5397858).

Delalle teaches a method of forming a meltable material at a joint between engaged male (4) and female (1) elements comprising the steps of placing a solder ring (8) around the male element such that the male member is directed through it. There is no disclosure of a split ring and the ring appears complete (360 degrees) in the drawings. However, the solder perform may take any form. The elements are heated which melts the solder ring. The ring melts before moving into the windings of the male element (figure 1, col 4 line 50 – col 5 line 33 and col 6 lines 1-19). The joint is solidified on cooling (col 4 lines 30-35). See Delalle claim 11.

6. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Delalle (USPN 5397855).

Delalle teaches a method of forming a meltable material at a joint between engaged male (4) and female (1) elements comprising the steps of placing a solder ring (8) around the male element such that the male member is directed through it. There is

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no disclosure of a split ring and the ring appears complete (360 degrees) in the drawings. However, the solder perform may take any form. The elements are heated which melts the solder ring. The ring melts before moving into the windings of the male element (figure 1, col 4 line 28 – col 5 line 7 and col 5 line 43 – col 6 line 12). The joint is solidified on cooling. Multiple rings may be employed (col 7 lines 42-50 and figure 7).

7. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lack et al. (USPN 6264062 B1).

Lack teaches a method of forming a meltable material at a joint between engaged male (128) and female (127) elements comprising the steps of placing a solder ring (103) around the male element such that the male member is directed through it (col 6 lines 56-68). The elements are heated which melts the solder ring. The ring melts before moving (wicking) into the gap between the elements (col 2 lines 41-60, col 4 lines 20-37, col 7 lines 35-42 and figures 12-14). The joint is solidified on cooling (col 4 lines 30-35). The meltable material is bent around the male element (figure 10 and col 7 lines 3-12). The perform may take any form such as a wire (col 1 line 46), a split wire or ring (col 6 lines 36-55 and figure 8A-8B), a circular ring or a disk (col 2 lines 41-43 and figure 1). One form of the perform may have a protrusion (figure 6) which would not be fully within the female element (figures 14-18) when the elements are a pipe and a fitting (coupling) (col 4 line 60 – col 5 line 5).

**Conclusion**


8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Maurice (USPN 4576325), Moyer et al. (USPN 3745644), Chevrel et al. (USPN 5368223), DeGroef (USPN 3995964) and Soni (USPN 4940179).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynne R. Edmondson whose telephone number is 703-306-5699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7-4, with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on 703-308-3318. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3599 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

LRE  
December 7, 2001

  
TOM DUNN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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